

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 16-36 are pending in the application, with claims 16, 20 and 21 being the independent claims. Claims 16 and 18-20 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the cancelled and/or amended claims, in the future. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The claims presented in this Application should be interpreted solely based on the file history of this Application, not the file history of any predecessor or related application. With respect to this application, Applicant hereby rescinds any and all disclaimers of claim scope made in any parent application(s), any predecessor application(s), and any related application(s). The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and any references that allegedly caused any previous disclaimer of claim scope, may need to be revisited. Nor should any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in this Application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 16-20

Claims 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 7,134,143 to Stellenberg et al. ("Stellenberg"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and provides the following arguments to support patentability.

Applicant has amended independent claim 16 to substantially incorporate at least some of the features from dependent claim 19. Specifically, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite at least the feature of *"a processor configured to... process the one or more patterns in accordance a priority computation to determine which one of the instructions is to be used to process the incoming packet."* This newly incorporated feature of independent claim 16 recites a priority computation to determine which instruction will be applied to the incoming packet when the associated identifier matches a range of values. (Applicant's Published Application, ¶ 0084.) For example, "if the associated identifier assigned to the network address is "3," then this network address falls within ranges 310 and 340" as shown in FIG. 3. (Applicant's Published Application, ¶ 0084.) As illustrated in FIG. 3, "this network address matches the rules associated with patterns 128.0.0.0/8 and 128.192.0.0/10," and, therefore, matches more than one rule. (Applicant's Published Application, ¶ 0084.) "A priority computation can then be performed to determine which of the rules will be enforced." (Applicant's Published Application, ¶ 0084.) Nowhere does Stellenberg teach or suggest a priority computation as recited by independent claim 16.

Therefore, Stellenberg does not teach or suggest at least the feature of *"a processor configured to match the associated identifier with one or more patterns from*

either the first set of binary patterns or the second set of binary patterns using a range of values associated with each of the first set of binary patterns and the second set of binary patterns and to process the one or more patterns in accordance a priority computation to determine which one of the instructions is to be used to process the incoming packet" as recited by independent claim 16, as amended. Independent claim 20, as amended, recites a substantially similar feature as independent claim 16 that is likewise not taught or suggest by Stellenberg.

For a rejection to be sufficient under 35 U.S.C. § 102, "each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." M.P.E.P. § 2131. The absence of any claimed element from the reference negates anticipation. Atlas Powder Co. v. E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., 750 F.2d 1569, 1574 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Consequently, Stellenberg cannot anticipate independent claims 16 and 20. Dependent claims 17-19 are likewise not anticipated by Stellenberg for the same reasons as independent claim 16 from which they depend and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowed claims

Claims 21-36

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 21-36 in the Office Action.

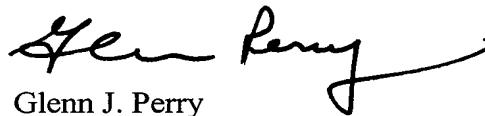
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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